

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are requested.

Applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claim 3. The above amendments place claim 3 in independent form, as well as, include the subject matter of claim 3 in all the independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 15-17, and 20 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lucas (US 5,687,876).

Claim 3 differs from Lucas at least in that it teaches that lifting the lever moves the tip of the extension extending in an opposite direction in the container and slides the at least one movable strip outward from the container.

Claim 4 describes that the container has a lever and extension extending in opposite directions. This is a structural difference resulting from the differing dispensing arrangements of the claimed invention and that of Lucas.

Claims 15 and 17 are distinguished from Lucas at least in that they define opening the dispensing opening with a lever and extension extending in opposite directions, sliding a side of the tip opposite the friction surface over the at least one strip and closing the dispensing opening. Lucas does not teach or suggest these features.

Claim 20 differs from Lucas at least in that it teaches lifting the cover moves the extension tip in the container in a direction opposite that of the lever and slides the upper strip outward through an end opening in the container. Lucas does not teach or suggest this feature.

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J C WRAY

703 448-7397

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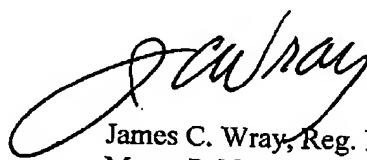
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Lucas fails to teach or suggest the features defined in each of Claims 3, 4-10, 15-17, and 20. Therefore the claims are all allowable over Lucas.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



James C. Wray, Reg. No. 22,693
Meera P. Narasimhan, Reg. No. 40,252
1493 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22101
Tel: (703) 442-4800
Fax: (703) 448-7397

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